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SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 1912.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Roosevelt's hat is in the ring. At last President Taft realizes that the man who once helped him into the Presidency is now the man who will oust him if he can. Therefore, the country is treated to the spectacle of a President of the United States struggling for his renomination, establishing bureaus of publicity, corralling the Southern Federal officeholders, and traveling from city to city to strengthen his own cause. It is a spectacle not altogether inspiring, but the pity of it is that it should be necessary.

For, whatever may be said to the contrary by partisan opponents, President Taft has given the country a good administration. If it has not been brilliant, it has been sane; if it has not soared amid the stars, it has been safe; and it has withal been actuated by a sincere patriotism and an earnest thoughtfulness for the country's welfare. This much can be said in its favor without fear of successful contradiction, and why it should be compelled to fight for its very existence against foes from within, rather than foes without, is one of the idiosyncrasies of politics. That it must fight is, however, certain. There is no recourse left to the President, and unless he should simply abandon the field—a contingency which no one should expect—he must measure lances with his rival in one of the most interesting political contests this country has ever seen.

Mr. Roosevelt enters the race sorely handicapped. This is not merely because he was once the most fulsome friend of Taft, praising him because he considered it his duty to return to the government of the Philippines rather than accept a much-coveted position on the Supreme bench; not because he once denounced William J. Bryan's criticism of the Supreme Court's income tax decision; not because he is now advocating principles from which he once held aloof; but because he proposes to accept a nomination which he twice said he would not accept under any circumstances. A solemn promise made to the nation and himself he now proposes to ignore.

This, after all, is the gravamen of the charge against Mr. Roosevelt. This, after all, is the act which returns to plague him and from the consequences of which he cannot escape by asserting that he meant a consecutive third term. Three-fourths of the comment which has been created by his recent declaration dwells most forcibly upon his spontaneous and unsolicited statements in 1904 and 1907 that he would not under any circumstances be a candidate or accept a nomination. Maybe he wishes now that he had not said it; but the record is made.

Apart from all this, he is, by his own admission, seeking a third term, and the veriest tyro in political history knows that he thus antagonizes a century-old tradition. Washington declined a third election when he could have had it for the asking, and renounced it, also, with the statement that such action was compatible with undiminished interest in national affairs and sincere gratitude for the honors which had been conferred upon him. Jefferson followed this example of voluntary retirement, and hoped that the precedent thus established would forever remain unbroken. Grant's admirers sought to reinstate their idol after an interregnum, and at a time when, as Blaine remarks in his autobiography, "the errors charged against him had well-nigh been forgotten, and the real merits and achievements of his administration were better appreciated than at an earlier period." But even Gen. Grant, to whom the country owed a debt of undying gratitude, could not overcome what Senator Hoar once called "the unwritten but well-understood rule of action by which the people had been guided from the time of Washington."

It is worth while to emphasize the feeling of resentment which has been caused by Roosevelt's departure from his own promises and by his effort to overturn a settled principle among the American people, because the charge that the systems of government which he is now advocating are seditious and anarchistic is not likely to have great weight.

Mr. Roosevelt's indorsement of a larger degree of pure democracy in our national government only accentuates and renders more acute the steady trend of the people from the days when the Constitution was first adopted. That document, broad as it is, would have been much broader if there had not been in the constitutional convention many men who distrusted the people as a whole and who, therefore, emphasized a representative form of government as being more durable because it would be less dependent upon purely popular expression. These men—honest, able, and thoroughly patriotic from their point of view—have their counterparts to-day. At the same time, the fact remains that the people have been steadily moving away from this basic idea, the movement not being of to-day, but having had its beginning almost as soon as the government was fairly launched.

In the first place, early suffrage was rigidly restricted to those who were possessed of wealth in some degree. Gradually, and as it became evident that the people were not wholly irresponsible, the restrictions were removed, but even at the close of more than a generation there were two or three States which still enforced the property qualification. More than this, the founders of the government never intended that the people should directly decide for themselves who should be their President. They safeguarded, as they thought, this important action by the creation of an electoral college, the members of which were to meet and elect candidates, acting upon their individual and combined judgment. The people were to be as far removed as possible. Remember, for instance, that, nine of the fifteen States which took part in the second election of Washington chose their electors through their legislatures. And it might be added, also, that nearly half a century elapsed before popular nominating conventions were held, candidates having been named up to that time in Congressional caucus.

Not only have we drifted far away from the purely representative form of government in the matter of Presidential electors, but the idea of the Constitution has also been departed from in choosing United States Senators. It is certainly not without significance that in many States direct primaries for United States Senators are now legalized, while nearly every State in the Union has petitioned Congress to call a convention to amend the Constitution so as to provide for direct elections. In this and in other manifestations of a desire for larger degree of individual responsibility in government there has been neither revolution nor anarchy.

The demand now existing for the adoption of the initiative and the referendum and the recall is only another step along the line of pure democracy—a pathway which the American people have trod with increasing certainty and firmness ever since the election of Thomas Jefferson as President. It has not yet led the people into national ruin.

But, most of all, it is said that the proposition to recall judges is the most dangerous because it attacks the very foundations of our national existence. It is not necessary to argue here either for or against the recall of judges, a question too large to be discussed within narrow limits. It may not be unprofitable, however, to point out that the present relation of the judiciary to our governmental system is as foreign to the original idea of the makers of the Constitution as day is to night.

In constructing a tripartite government, the judicial branch was mentioned last and its treatment in the Constitution was confined to three paragraphs. That this was not accidental is evident from the expressions of Alexander Hamilton when, in the Federalist letters, he explained the new charter to the people and urged its acceptance.

Hamilton, in discussing the judiciary, asserted that it "will always be the least dangerous to the political rights of the Constitution because it will be least in a capacity to annoy or injure them." He asserted that "incontestably, the judiciary is beyond comparison the weakest of the three departments of power." He pointed out that the Executive dispensed the honors and held the sword, while the legislature commanded the purse. "The judiciary, on the contrary," he wrote, "has no influence over either the sword or the purse; no direction, either, of the strength or of the wealth of society; and can take no active resolution whatever."

These seem strange words nowadays. Hamilton, with all his greatness, never foresaw that the time would come when the Supreme Court of the United States would practically make a law for the land or that—speaking of the wealth of society—the distribution of immense corporate wealth would be dependent upon the approval of a judge. What Hamilton did not foresee—unless, indeed, he was willfully misleading the people—others plainly recognized, even before his life was extinguished on "the field of honor." It may not be generally known that when President John Adams was about to be succeeded by Thomas Jefferson, whose election was recognized as the first development of the desire for pure democracy, the Federalist Congress passed a law, when less than three weeks of Adams' term remained, creating a large number of Federal courts and judgeships, the latter being immediately appointed, while Adams himself placed John Marshall, an ardent Federalist, in the position of Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court exactly thirty-three days before going out of office. "The government of the country passed into Mr. Jefferson's hands as stoutly fortified against change or misuse as a solidly Federalistic personnel in the courts could make it."

The people could change the law, and they did so in the next Congress; but they could not displace the Chief Justice; and so it has passed into a proverb, that one man on the bench did more to shape the destinies of the nation than all the people in legislative halls. From that day to this, the judiciary, which Hamilton characterized as the weakest of the three departments of power, has grown stronger and stronger, until now the courts, as in California, give to a State constitution a meaning never intended by the people who framed it, and, as in Iowa, promulgate from the bench a law which the people have never enacted.

When, therefore, it is asserted that one of the issues of the approaching campaign is whether the people shall remain faithful to the Constitution, it is worth while to bear in mind that already we have gone far afield from the original ideas of the Constitution makers, and not the least radical departure is the assumption of power by the judiciary. The probability is, of course, that the people are, as a whole, still bound by the traditions which for nearly a century have attached to the courts, and that they will not, for a while at least, endeavor to exercise the power which rightly belongs to them. It is this fact, this conservatism, which prevented popular suffrage for nearly thirty years and which postponed the abolition of slavery from the time of the Missouri compromise in 1820 to the dark days of 1863, which will operate against immediate adoption of the principles now so boldly declaimed. If they are ever ingrafted upon our governmental system, however, either at the approaching election or at any future period, there will be no necessity to cry anarchy. The whole history of this government is one of evolution, and with each change there has come progress toward a higher and better degree of self-government. The man who predicts that any step taken by the American people as the result of their deliberate convictions will wreck the nation has not read American history aright, and lacks that confidence in the country's citizenship which is fully justified by past events.

Victory for the Hospitals.

In providing a sum sufficient to maintain Columbia Hospital and appropriating $100,000 for beginning a new building for the Emergency Hospital, Senator Gallinger and his colleagues upon the Senate Appropriations Committee have shown themselves thoroughly responsive to an overwhelming public sentiment.

Not only the medical associations, but civic bodies like the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade, have declared in emphatic terms in favor of the action which has been taken by the committee. There has been widespread resentment against the proposition advanced by the Board of Charities to abolish Columbia Hospital and the Emergency Hospital, a resentment which undoubtedly has some foundation in the fact that if the recommendation should be carried into effect it would inure directly to the benefit of institutions with which the members of the board are connected.

It is unfortunate that differences should have arisen, because the Board of Charities has undoubtedly done great public service during the period of its existence. At the same time, The Washington Herald repeats its former suggestion that in the future the personnel of the board should be kept free from any relationship to any institution coming within its jurisdiction. This is the present intent and purpose of the law, and strict observance of this spirit in the future will go far toward eliminating the friction which now unhappily exists.

District Appropriations.

The District people are profoundly grateful to the District subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee for its appreciation of the conditions in this community.

An amount approximating $1,700,000 has been added to the appropriation bill, although the total is still below the aggregate which might be reached in compliance with the law, which provides that expenditures shall be kept within the estimated receipts. It is evident, too, that the increases have been made with care, including, as they do, more generous provision for the schools and for the police, with proposed extensions of the sewer system and additional park facilities.

The work which has been done by the members of the subcommittee indicates a deep interest in the District's welfare and will undoubtedly be ratified by the Senate. If the House would only be equally considerate!

That "Crook from New Jersey."

From the Oklahoma City Times.

A rather bitter [illegible] says that the reason the Democratic convention of [illegible] took so [illegible] to Gov. Wilson was because Henry Watterson had described Wilson as a crook from New Jersey.

One Lonesome Governor.

From the New Haven Register.

Shouldn't Gov. Robert P. Bass, of New Hampshire, feel lonesome in that company of wild Westerners who are whirlwinding the Roosevelt boom?

Conditions in Milwaukee.

From the Columbia (S. C.) State.

Title of a Milwaukee pastor's sermon was, "What we men have in us." In Milwaukee, usually, about four quarts.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

DRAWING THE LINE.

I can stand for the plutocrat's gab; I can stand for the egotist's rot.
Their commonplace twaddle may weary my noddle, but such is a bystander's lot.
I can stand for the arrogant snob, his friends and their sickening gush,
But I am a balker whenever a talker begins this "affinity" slush.

I can stand for the candidate's spiel; it is merely hot air, we all know,
As one of the rabble I take in his gabble, and when I get tired I can go.
I can stand for the anarchist's bosh, although it is pitiful stuff,
But I am a balker whenever a talker begins this "affinity" guff.

Uncle Pennywise Says:

Every man over thirty thinks he understands all about human nature.

No Appropriation.

"Senator, I see that Washington's Farewell Address was read before the Senate on the 22d."

"Yes," responded the Senator, "and I enjoyed it very much. It was the only document I have listened to this session that didn't ask for an appropriation of some sort."

No Eyewitnesses.

"We can't get any witnesses to testify that they saw this accident."

"Why, there were twenty passengers on the car."

"All women, and every one of them will swear that she closed her eyes tightly when it became apparent that there would be a smash."

His Views.

"I cannot sing the old songs, with memories 'round them clinging."
Quoth Uncle Ben,
And added then:
"The new ones ain't worth singing."

At a Social Function.

It is customary to speak of the genial host and the amiable hostess.

This is true of any social function.

But you often hear them quarreling behind a door, just the same.

March 3 in History.

March 3, 1176—Richard the Lion-hearted is surrounded by 2,000 Saracens, but carves his way out single-handed. A notable feat of the Crusades.

March 3, 1762—Boswell and Dr. Johnson are invited to dinner by David Garrick and ate heartily for the first time in six days.

Training Begins.

The manager of the ball team lined them up and looked them over.

"All those who have been in vaudeville during the winter kindly step forward."

The entire team stepped forward.

"I thought so," said the manager. "Well, boys, just bear in mind this one rule. It will go hard with the man who disregards it."

"What is it, cap?"

"When you make a hit, and the audience applauds, don't stop to bow on your way to first base."

The Modern Father.

"Your pa will lick you if he knows you are out here skating on this thin ice."

"But he won't know. He's busy writing my composition and doing my lessons for me."

SOME COINCIDENCES.

Editor Williams Sees Elba and Waterloo for Col. Roosevelt.

From the Roanoke Times.

Digging back and looking forward a little, alert historians have noted two coincidences:

The return of Napoleon from Elba was February 25, 1815. Col. Roosevelt's announcement of his candidacy for re-election as President was February 25, 1912—just ninety-seven years later.

The Republican national convention will meet at Chicago June 18, 1912. The battle of Waterloo was fought June 18, 1815. Then Napoleon went to St. Helena; and he stayed there.

Between his return from Elba and Waterloo Napoleon was publicly and formally proclaimed "an enemy and disturber of the peace of the world."

Col. Roosevelt is not Napoleon and Napoleon was not Col. Roosevelt. But very different men may have experiences precisely alike and on exactly the same dates of the year.

The colonel may have designed the return from Elba coincidence; and other people may design and complete the Waterloo coincidence.

MEXICO.

From the Milwaukee Free Press.

Diaz, too, is perhaps waiting for "the voice of the people."

From the El Paso Herald.

A week-old baby asleep is the quietest living thing in the world, except Ciudad Juarez between scares.

From the Florida Times-Union.

From the proportion in which Gonzalo Enrile mixed fact and imagination we infer that he is a progressive something or other.

From the St. Louis Star.

The Mexican rebels promise to shoot, when they attack Juarez, so as to hit them if they are Mexicans and miss them if they are Americans.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph.

Texans don't mind conducting little shooting parties of their own, but they certainly do get all fussed up when a Mexican bullet comes singing into their midst.

From the Philadelphia Star.

Seems to be enough of a rebellion in Mexico to warrant Taft in having his regular army vaccinated again. Go to it, William!

Some Regulation Needed.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Joshua Levering, of Baltimore, sometime, and perhaps once more, candidate on the Prohibition ticket, does not believe that local option will end the liquor traffic, and the organ of the National Prohibition party admits that where prohibition on a State-wide basis has been tried it does not cure the evil. It looks as if some regulation might suggest itself instead of political prohibition which does not prohibit, lessen or morally regenerate the liquor traffic.

Dr. Alderman Must Explain.

From the Birmingham Ledger.

If President Alderman, of the University of Virginia, did say that all the alumni of that institution are lined up for Woodrow Wilson, he must have been dreaming, for it is an absurd statement. It would be a safe bet that he not only never said it, but that he never thought of such a thing.

Should Imitate Spain.

From the Providence Journal.

It is odd that the Turks make such a complaint of their loss every time the Italians bombard one of their ports. Capt. Gen. Blanco's dispatch to Madrid about a brief shelling of Havana in 1898 may be commended to them. He observed that "one mule was killed."

IS CONGRESS AFRAID?

Alienist Proposes to Make Scientific Study of the Members.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Arthur MacDonald, of Washington, is famous as a sociologist, as a criminologist, and as an alienist. He asks to be permitted to make a scientific study of Congressmen, analyzing the legislative activities of every man in every Congress, from the First to the Sixty-second. But Congress seems strangely reluctant.

Tama Jim Wilson has experts who tell you off-hand the difference in the length of whiskers of the doodlebug and the boll weevil, the exact number of kernels on any one of thirty-seven kinds of ears of corn, and why it pays $8.97 a year to keep the family pig in good humor. Government scientists are studying and measuring school children, apples, horses, trees, soils, bugs, worms, and birds. They are studying the eagle's flight and the submarine, the currency system and the plague that infects Long Island eels.

Congress itself has sanctioned investigations that reach into the smallest business affairs and touch the personal life of every American. Why should Congressmen object to submitting to that to which they subject every one but themselves?

We would not only have their legislative activities compared although that is desirable; we would also know the space each occupies in that great humorous journal of theirs, the height, weight, color of eyes and hair, size of boot and hat, and predilections in the line of amusement. Careful biographical studies, full details of private activities and number of jobs provided for supporters would increase the value of the report.

INTERESTING TO SPECULATE.

What Would Roosevelt Call Another Man Doing as He Did?

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

It is interesting to speculate upon what Col. Roosevelt would call any other man in America who could be proven guilty of the unqualified falsehood of which his announcement of candidacy convicts him, in view of his deliberate, theatric declaration that he would "in no circumstances seek or accept another nomination."

"Mendacious liar," "deliberate falsifier," "deliberate and malicious liar," "base fabricator," and sundry other terms were employed from time to time by Col. Roosevelt when he was in office. They were often employed to describe men of character who merely differed with him. In many cases the epithets were applied where there was a good deal of room for doubt as to whether there was any real reason to question the veracity of the individual assaulted. In no case that can be recalled was there the written proof of falsification that exists in this case.

TOUCHY MILITARY NATIONS.

Espionage Fever at Its Ridiculous Extreme in Germany.

From the Springfield Republican.

An example of the demoralization wrought by the espionage fever is given in the reported decision of the authorities at Wilhelmshaven to transfer the entire police force there because of the impossibility of weeding out suspicious characters. It is no wonder that military people are nervous about airships, for a glance from overhead might easily reveal what spies would have to work for months to learn by prying and bribery.

Perhaps the time is at hand when the attempt at secrecy will be abandoned, which would be a great relief of tension, and would give neither side an advantage over the other.

There are many military critics who hold that the fuss made over keeping the details of fortifications a mystery is wasted. It is at least a constant source of international irritation.

NEED A STRONG HAND.

Mexicans May Ask Former President Diaz to Rule Again.

From the Charlotte Observer.

Things down in Mexico have been going very badly since Madero succeeded with his revolution. The government at Washington is sending troops to the border for the protection of American interests.

The Mexicans have again proved their unfitness for governing themselves. The well-to-do people of the country are talking about asking Diaz to return for the sake of Mexico, which must be governed with a strong hand or not be governed at all.

Since the Madero revolution began, it is estimated that it has cost Mexico not less than $100,000,000 in the destruction of its business industries, and it has given Mexico nothing but the prospect of still greater losses and continued disorder.

THAT HOUN' DAWG SONG.

From the Chicago Tribune.

The dawg song is a paean of triumphant, militant Democracy, of equal rights, of government by and for the people.

From the Detroit News.

The new "dawg" song may be better than "Illinois," as the Chicago Tribune insists, but did the Tribune ever hear "Michigan?"

From the Atlanta Constitution.

Missouri's leniency to the "dog song" they have saddled on her may encourage the native poets to harmonize the braying of a Champ Clark campaign mule.

From the Buffalo News.

Champ Clark may be proud of the Missouri air his followers sing with vast gusto, as proud as if driving up Pennsylvania avenue behind a pair of Missouri mules. But possibly not.

From the Nashville Democrat.

Champ Clark takes his chance so seriously that he is about to repudiate the "dawg" song. A special from Washington to the New York World says that he "has more serious things in view and does not aspire to be elected President on the Bob Taylor platform of 'the fiddle and the bow.'" It is too late in life for him to take Tom Corwin's advice and try to be as solemn as a donkey.

He Longed for Silence.

From the Brooklyn Standard-Union.

Representative Sulzer, in an interview in Washington, compared Russia's silence on the passport question to an unusually silent, uncommunicative man, says the St. Louis Republic.

"This man," he said, "hated to talk as Russia hates all passport talk. He went into a barber shop the other day to be shaved, and, before seating himself in the chair, he handed the barber a dime.

"'Oh, thank you, sir,' said the barber. 'I don't often get my tip before I begin. Thank you, sir, very much.'

"'That isn't a tip,' said the silent man sternly. 'It's "hush" money.'"

March 4 May Behave.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

Owing to the absence of an inauguration, March 4 may pass without any [illegible] or roaring lion in the backwoods.

Suits All Around.

From the Newark Star.

Colors of the Chinese republic are red, white, blue, green, and yellow. This ought to ensure the enthusiastic support of America, Ireland, and Hearst.

A GREAT COURT PAGEANT.

Berlin court society enjoyed a rare treat following the recent "Schleppen Cour," when statesmen, high dignitaries of the civil and military establishments, and the corps diplomatique, all in their glittering regalia or uniforms and bedecked with the stars, crosses, and medals of orders of merit and distinction, and their ladies in long, trailing, superb court gowns, after all had made their obeisance to the imperial pair at the "Alte Schloss," hastened to the Hotel Esplanade, in whose magnificent ballroom, salons, and palm gardens an informal reception was held, followed by a grand ball.

No other capital can boast of anything like this intermingling of royalty with their subjects. There is nothing quite as unique or informal to be found anywhere. Having escaped the cast-iron rule of etiquette imposed upon them in the august presence of the Kaiser, they are in for a "real good time." And they certainly get it. In fact, they call it a ball in "American picnic style."

There were quite a number of Hohenzollern princes present, and they enjoyed themselves to the limit. All of the Kaiser's sons are fine dancers, but Prince Joachim, the youngest, is the most proficient in the worship of the goddess Terpsichore. His tournure when leading the "Francaise" after supper was inimitable in its gracefulness and the delicate nuances of his every move. No Parisian bon vivant or boulevardier could have executed the intricate motions with more skill. But it must be recorded that he had a splendid aid in his partner, an American and an acknowledged beauty, the present Countess Dolly von Roedern, nee Croissant-Uhde.

His neighbor to the left was the dainty ethereal little Claire von Arnim-Gerswalde, whose mother also is of American birth. Countess Roedern had not yet divested herself of the magnificent nile green veil which she had worn at the court earlier in the evening. Most of the other ladies were in white tulle, some wearing priceless lace, but few gems.

Prince Friedrich Sigismund, of Prussia, son of the popular Prince Henry, the Kaiser's brother, whom he sent on the historic "mailed-fist" errand to China years ago, and who visited this country in 1902, danced the Francaise with another lovely American girl, Miss Unger, of Detroit, who created a mild sensation by waltzing in the daintiest white satin pump imaginable, but minus the high heel or any kind of heel.

There were other Hohenzollerns present, among them Prince Wilhelm Leopold, the son of Friedrich Leopold, a brother of the first Wilhelm, and Prince George, son of Princess Olga of Greece, a cousin of the Kaiser.

As a matter of fact, there were more American heiresses at the Esplanade gathering this year and at the "court" which preceded it than ever before. Berlin society journals discuss quite seriously the titbit of how many of the "dollar princesses" who made their bow to the imperial pair and Berlin society this year, and whose number is increasing under the protection and chaperonage of Ambassador and Mrs. Leishman, and will become happy brides of stalwart Prussian guardsmen.

One cannot close one's eye to the fact that at present plutocracy has supreme sway in the former so very frugal fatherland, as a result of the unprecedented influx of foreign capital from Germany's marvelously increased colonial trade and commercial expansion policy since the founding of the new empire by Bismarck. A new standard of "noblesse" has been established and it reigns supreme: the noblesse of trade, the "Commerzienrath," the "Geheimrath," the "Justizrath." Do not let us fall into the error of still believing that the up-to-date German does not know the value of cash and what it can buy in the realm of high society.

Before the present era, a Prussian army officer, when asking the required permission of his colonel to wed (the army rules insist upon an income sufficient to "support a wife in the manner becoming an officer"), was told that it was a disgrace for any Prussian officer to allow himself to be supported by his wife. * * * "Tempi passati" indeed. Numberless officers in the German army of to-day never would have been able to marry or to carve out for themselves a fine career had it not been for the standing which the wealth of the American dollar princess was able to provide for them. And be it said, no one in all Germany is more anxious to chain these dollar princesses to the fatherland by means of the rose garlands of Cupid than Kaiser Wilhelm. He knows the value of the dollar in present-day conditions and he has clearly demonstrated this by the exceptionally large number of American debutantes whom his court chamberlain granted permission to be presented at the "Schleppen Cour."

Statesmen in the European cabinets continue to attach the greatest significance to the fact that Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the dual throne of the Hapsburgs, journeyed in person to Berlin in order to offer his congratulations to the Kaiser on the occasion of his birthday. Were one trying to draw a balance of the foreign-relation policy of the German empire in order to arrive at a true valuation of the situation, the intimate friendship between the successor to aged Franz Josef and Kaiser Wilhelm ought to figure as a main asset.

I have dwelt repeatedly in these letters upon the fact manifested at the court of Berlin, where it is a rule never to let Franz Ferdinand feel that his morganatic wife, the lovely Duchess of Hohenburg, is not his equal in rank, an open wound upon which the future Emperor of Austria is very sensitive. It was the tact of the German Empress, who brought about this happy state of affairs, which may mean so much politically to both countries. She ordered the court chamberlain to substitute a series of small tables for the one long "gala-tafel" generally in use at court banquets of state, on the occasion of the visit of Franz Ferdinand and his wife to Potsdam several years ago. Thus husband and wife were enabled to sit at one and the same table and also in the immediate vicinity of the Kaiser and Kaiserin.

The archduke, who adores his still very handsome wife, and whose union with the former Countess Sophie Chotek has been one continued chain of bliss all these years, has not forgotten this delicate acknowledgment of his wife's status at the Hohenzollern court, and his gratitude to Emperor Wilhelm is unbounded. They are and always will be fast friends in weal and woe, and there is no fear of their entente ever being abrogated, no matter if Italy should be so thoughtless of her own welfare to fail to renew the "Dreibund."

As is well remembered in Berlin court circles how the Hohenzollern etiquette was the cause of an insult to the late Queen Victoria, which she neither forgot nor forgave. It was during the reign of Friedrich Wilhelm IV and Elizabeth, his Queen. Queen Victoria of England paid a cousinly visit to the court of Berlin. She was then a happy wife and young mother, and every one knows how she loved her husband, the Coburg Prince Albert, her prince consort. But neither the King nor the Queen had seen fit to make an exception in the rules of etiquette in favor of the husband of the ruler of one of the greatest nations on earth. There was the usual "gala-tafel," and while Queen Victoria had been placed between the Prussian King and Queen, her boss, the prince consort was seated away down at the end of the table, far removed from his adoring wife and in the midst of a lot of insignificant German "dudes" princelings. She never got over it. Perhaps the lesson which the court chamberlain, Count August zu Eulenburg, then got (he was completely ignored by the Queen, who upon her return to London, sent high decorations to all court dignitaries but himself), has fallen upon fruitful soil.

FLANEUR.

WOULD CURTAIL COTTON.

Suggestion that Acre for Acre of Food Crops Be Planted.

From the Charlotte (N. C.) Observer.

The farmers of Mecklenburg County are going to reduce the acreage of cotton this spring. The movement is to have the Wilson plan put into immediate effect.

This requires each farmer to pledge himself that he will plant one acre of food crops to every acre devoted to the cultivation of cotton. It is a splendid scheme, and will go far toward solving a problem that has become critical with the agricultural interests of the South. One-year curtailment is not all that is needed.

A plan by which diversity becomes essentially necessary for a number of years—becomes, indeed, a permanent policy with the farmers—is the plan needed, and the Wilson proposition looks that way.

TAFT PLAIN AND SANE.

Deeds, Not Talk, Are His Chief Title to Public Esteem.

From the Knoxville Sentinel.

Boiled down, the chief complaint against President Taft by the "progressives" in his party is not that he has not accomplished anything, but that what he has accomplished has been brought about with too little fuss and commotion. He is not a man to "be talked about."

If it came down to a matter of real service to his country on certain lines, we believe the majority against President Taft next November would be smaller than against several of the others who are being mentioned for the Republican nomination.

TABLOID THOUGHTS.

From the Elmira Advertiser.

Gov. Dix is mistaken when he says he is a Gibraltar. If he were a Gibraltar he would last longer than two years.

From the Des Moines Tribune.

Some Democrats who profess to know are claiming that Roosevelt can be defeated just as easily as Mr. Taft. But how easy do they think Mr. Taft will be?

From the Omaha Bee.

If President Taft should be re-elected and then the world did not come to an end as a consequence some of the President's frenzied detractors would not be worth much as prophets.

From the Montgomery Advertiser.

The Kansas progressives are urging Gov. Stubbs for Vice President, if Roosevelt gets the first place on the ticket. What a chance for the punsters if the tail of the ticket is named Stubbs.

From the St. Louis Republic.

One of the humiliations of the present political situation for Missourians is found in the fact that their dizzy governor is among the five or six who profess to believe that there is a necessary man.

Should Make Animals Behave.

From the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The Weather Man ought to make these weather animals stop fooling with the climate. Just as we get over the ground hog's silly meanness, the lion and the lamb start fussing about what kind of a March we shall have.

VENEZUELA LOOKS TO US.

Seeks Best Way of Reorganizing Its Public Schools.

From the Boston Transcript.

Feeling the need of a thorough reorganization of its public schools, Venezuela turns to the United States for advice and help, and sends an expert to this country to study not only curricula, but methods of teaching and administration. Venezuela's public school system has had an official existence of nearly forty years, but it is hardly more effective to-day than it was when it was inaugurated. The nation has been very much inclined to let education shift for itself. The inevitable awakening is now at hand, however, and a concentration of schools is the first step in the direction of a greater efficiency. Presently—as soon as the expert returns from the United States—normal schools will be established. In this organization work educators from abroad will have a prominent part.

WHO WOULD LIVE IN BOSTON?

City of Dreary Cold Weather and Frozen Water Pipes.

From the Springfield Republican.

Not within the memory of the oldest inhabitants in New England has there been so much trouble in cities and towns because of frozen water mains. Boston never saw the like, and people all over the greater Boston region are suffering inconvenience and hardship. So it is generally.

Despite the warmer weather, the prospect of relief in this matter is not bright. It must be some time before the frost is lifted should the higher temperature continue, while the coming of a cold snap would operate to drive the frost deeper into the ground, and so intensify our trouble.

We seem bound to catch it going and coming.

Whence This Modesty?

From the St. Louis Republic.

One of the very oldest Senators at Washington, a man who has been in the Senate more than twenty years, and a recognized leader, introduced a short speech in the Senate the other day with these words: "I greatly dislike to say a word in the Senate—the older I get the more reluctant I feel to speak before this distinguished body." Is there a touch of sarcasm in that? Does the Senator mean that the Senate manifests a disposition to do away with real debate? Or is it just the beautiful modesty of maturity?

They Want Him in Texas.

From the Houston Post.

The Kansas scoundrel who was sentenced to jail for tarring the young schoolmarm has been paroled. We wish that fellow would visit Texas for a day or two. The men of almost any town in the State would like to look at him for a few minutes, but it is not likely that he would wish to remain after the interview.

A Good Suggestion.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

John Barrett's suggestion that it is time to quit talking about the benefits of the Panama Canal and to begin preparing to take advantage of them is timely. And one way would be to hurry the completion of the Ohio River improvement